

2012 FCAT WRITING CHANGES AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Florida Department of Education, May 2012

Timeline

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- Spring 2010: Legislation requires the school grades writing standard to be a score a student can earn.
- April 2011: 2011 FCAT Writing Scoring – One Scorer.
- May 2011: School Grading Rule, SBE changed writing standard.
 - There was only one scorer in 2011 so a student could not earn a 3.5.
 - SBE increased the rigor of the standard to 4 rather than lowering it to 3.
 - SBE did not discuss keeping the standard at 3.5 as an option since two scorers were not a possibility in 2011.
 - SBE asked that the budget request include a return to two scorers for each essay.

Timeline (cont.)

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- July 5, 2011: Memo to districts noticing the change in the scoring of FCAT Writing in 2012 to increase expectations regarding the correct use of standard English conventions and the quality of details provided as support. Both of these elements had in the past been scored with leniency.
- July 29, 2011: The Department posted exemplar papers to illustrate the change in expectations, in advance of posting new scoring guides (calibration sets).
- August 3-5, 2011: The Department convened the Writing Content Advisory Committee (Florida educators) to develop the 2012 FCAT Writing Calibration Scoring Guides for each grade and writing purpose (mode).

Timeline (cont.)

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- August 31, 2011: The Department posted the approved 2012 FCAT Writing Calibration Scoring Guides for school district use.
- January 2012: Pearson contract amended to return to two scorers for all writing essays.
- April 2012: FCAT Writing Scoring – Two Scorers and increased rigor in scoring.
- May 10, 2012: Final 2012 FCAT Writing student results files approved.

Overview of Preliminary Results

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	2011	2012	
	Percentage 4 or above	Percentage 3.5 or above	Percentage 4 or above
Grade 4	81%	48%	27%
Grade 8	82%	52%	33%
Grade 10	80%	60%	38%

Grade 4 – Percentage of Students at Each Score Point

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Score	2011	2012	Cum. Percentage 2011	Cum. Percentage 2012
0	0.60	1.03	0.60	1.03
1 .0	0.64	1.41	1.24	2.44
1.5	-	1.4	1.24	3.84
2 .0	1.80	5.91	3.04	9.75
2.5	-	9.47	3.04	19.22
3 .0	15.58	32.48	18.62	51.70
3.5	-	21.07	18.62	72.77
4 .0	56.29	19.25	74.91	92.02
4.5	-	5.29	74.91	97.31
5 .0	22.13	1.9	97.04	99.21
5.5	-	0.62	97.04	99.83
6 .0	2.96	0.22	100.00	100.05

Grade 4 – Percentage of Students at or above 3.5 and 4

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Year	Percentage 3.5 and Above	Percentage 4 and Above
2011	n/a	81%
2012	48%	27%

Grade 8 – Percentage of Students at Each Score Point

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Score	2011	2012	Cum. Percentage 2011	Cum. Percentage 2012
0	0.17	0.77	0.17	0.77
1 .0	0.60	1.70	0.77	2.47
1.5	-	1.51	0.77	3.98
2 .0	2.40	8.48	3.17	12.46
2.5	-	10.14	3.17	22.60
3 .0	14.82	25.44	17.99	48.04
3.5	-	18.96	17.99	67.00
4 .0	47.14	23.11	65.13	90.11
4.5	-	6.23	65.13	96.34
5 .0	29.60	2.63	94.73	98.97
5.5	-	0.74	94.73	99.71
6 .0	5.28	0.29	100.01	100.00

Grade 8 – Percentage of Students at or above 3.5 and 4

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Year	Percentage 3.5 and Above	Percentage 4 and Above
2011	n/a	82%
2012	52%	33%

Grade 10 – Percentage of Students at Each Score Point

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Score	2011	2012	Cum. Percentage 2011	Cum. Percentage 2012
0	0.08	0.53	0.08	0.53
1 .0	0.43	1.25	0.51	1.78
1.5	-	1.32	0.51	3.10
2 .0	2.56	4.58	3.07	7.68
2.5	-	8.28	3.07	15.96
3 .0	17.25	24.09	20.32	40.05
3.5	-	22.31	20.32	62.36
4 .0	47.96	25.92	68.28	88.28
4.5	-	7.8	68.28	96.08
5 .0	26.62	2.84	94.90	98.92
5.5	-	0.84	94.90	99.76
6 .0	5.09	0.24	99.99	100.00

Grade 10 – Percentage of Students at or above 3.5 and 4

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Year	Percentage 3.5 and Above	Percentage 4 and Above
2011	n/a	80%
2012	60%	38%

Recommended Action

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- Because we now have two scorers, the State Board of Education set a score of 3.5 or higher as the writing performance level standard for school grades.
- A 3.5 is now a possible score for students since we again have 2 scorers.
- The rigor of the writing assessment scoring has increased with more focus on the conventions of writing and the quality of details provided as support.